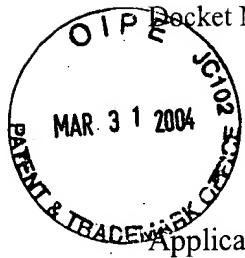


RCE/1700

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Johnson et al. Group Art Unit: 1714
Application No.: 09/752,227 Examiner: Shosho, C.
Filed: December 29, 2000
For: **MODIFIED PIGMENTS HAVING IMPROVED DISPERSING PROPERTIES**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the following amendments.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.